



**THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: George H. HOFFMAN et al.

Title: SYSTEM, METHOD AND COMPUTER  
PROGRAM PRODUCT FOR MONITORING  
SUPPLIER ACTIVITY IN A SUPPLY CHAIN  
MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

Appl. No.: 09/816,331

Filing Date: 03/23/2001

Examiner: Florian M. Zeender

Art Unit: 3627

**RECEIVED**

JUL 20 2004

**GROUP 3600**

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**  
**UNDER 37 CFR §1.56**

Commissioner for Patents  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

Submitted herewith on Form PTO/SB/08 is a listing of documents known to Applicants in order to comply with Applicants' duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56. A copy of each listed document is being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98.

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b). Applicants do not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a *prima facie* art reference against the claims of the present application.

07/19/2004 EABUBAK1 00000003 09816331

02 FC:1806

180.00 DP

**TIMING OF THE DISCLOSURE**

The listed documents are being submitted in compliance with 37 CFR §1.97(c), before the mailing date of either a final action under 37 CFR §1.113, a notice of allowance under 37 CFR §1.113, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application.

**RELEVANCE OF EACH DOCUMENT**

All of the documents are in English.

Applicants respectfully request that any listed document be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO/SB/08 be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

**FEE**

A fee in connection with submission of an information disclosure statement under 37 CFR §1.97(c) in the amount of \$180.00 in accordance with 37 CFR §1.17(p) is attached.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 CFR §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date July 16, 2004

By 

FOLEY & LARDNER LLP  
Customer Number: 22428  
Telephone: (202) 672-5485  
Facsimile: (202) 672-5399

William T. Ellis  
Attorney for Applicant  
Registration No. 26,874

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449B/PTO		<b>Complete if Known</b>	
<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>  Date Submitted: July 16, 2004 <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i>		Application Number	09/816,331
		Filing Date	March 23, 2001
		First Named Inventor	George H. HOFFMAN et al.
		Group Art Unit	3627
		Examiner Name	Florian M. Zeender
		Attorney Docket Number	062834-0136
Sheet	1	of	3

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number	Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)			
		4,799,156		Shavit et al.	01-17-1989	
		5,204,821		Inui et al.	04-20-1993	
		5,490,060		Malec et al.	02-06-1996	
		5,638,519		Haluska	06-10-1997	
		5,802,502		Gell et al.	09-01-1998	
		5,854,746		Yamamoto et al.	12-29-1998	
		5,898,765		Teglovic et al.	04-27-1999	
		5,914,878		Yamamoto et al.	06-22-1999	
		6,009,407		Garg	12-28-1999	
		6,032,125		Ando	02-29-2000	
		6,058,375		Park	05-02-2000	
		6,061,691		Fox	05-09-2000	
		6,078,900		Ettl et al.	06-20-2000	
		6,148,291		Radican	11-14-2000	
		6,167,378		Webber, Jr.	12-26-2000	
		6,260,024	B1	Shkedy	07-10-2001	
		6,266,652	B1	Godin et al.	07-24-2001	
		6,338,050	B1	Conklin et al.	01-08-2002	
		6,366,890	B1	Usrey	04-02-2002	
		6,477,513	B1	Walker et al.	11-05-2002	
		6,486,899	B1	Bush, jr.	11-26-2002	
		6,564,226	B1	Dickson et al.	05-13-2003	
		6,587,827	B1	Hennig et al.	07-01-2003	
		6,622,056	B1	Lindell	09-16-2003	
		6,643,624	B2	Philippe et al.	11-04-2003	
		6,609,101	B1	Landvater	08-19-2003	
		6,697,702	B1	Hahn-Carlson	02-24-2004	
		2001/0020230	A1	Kaneko et al.	09-06-2001	
		2001/0032126	A1	Macartney-Filgate et al.	10-18-2001	
		2002/0007324	A1	Centner et al.	01-17-2002	
		2002/0016760	A1	Sanjesh	20-07-2002	
		2002/0019761	A1	Lidow	02-14-2002	
		2002/0034673	A1	Bisaka et al.	03-21-2002	
		2002/0049649	A1	Kubota	04-25-2002	
		2002/0069096	A1	Lindoefer et al.	06-06-2002	
		2002/0069028	A1	Merz et al.	06-06-2002	
		2002/0087371	A1	Abendroth	07-04-2002	
		2002/0099598	A1	Eicher, Jr. et al.	07-25-2002	
		2002/0107761	A1	Kark et al.	08-08-2002	
		2002/0123945	A1	Booth et al.	09-05-2002	
		2002/0128946	A1	Chehade et al.	09-12-2002	
		2002/0143669	A1	Scheer	10-03-2002	

RECEIVED

JUL 20 2004

GROUP 3600

Examiner  
SignatureDate  
Considered

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup> Unique citation designation number. <sup>2</sup> See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document.

<sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449B/PTO <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>  Date Submitted: July 16, 2004 <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i>			<b>Complete if Known</b>	
Sheet <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 0 5px;">2</span> of <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 0 5px;">3</span>			<b>Application Number</b> 09/816,331 <b>Filing Date</b> March 23, 2001 <b>First Named Inventor</b> George H. HOFFMAN et al. <b>Group Art Unit</b> 3627 <b>Examiner Name</b> Florian M. Zeender <b>Attorney Docket Number</b> 062834-0136	

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
	U.S. Patent Document		U.S. Patent Document	Date of Publication	
	2002/0143692	A1	Heimermann et al.	10-03-2002	
	2002/0147622	A1	Drolet et al.	10-10-2002	
	2002/0165806	A1	Kataria et al.	11-07-2002	
	2002/0169657	A1	Singh et al.	11-14-2002	
	2002/0169658	A1	Adler et al.	11-14-2002	
	2002/0188499	A1	Jenkins et al.	12-12-2002	
	2002/0194057	A1	Lidow	12-19-2002	
	2002/0019759	A1	Arunapuram et al.	02-14-2002	
	2002/0198759	A1	Gilday et al.	12-26-2002	
	2003/0009392	A1	Perkowski	01-09-2003	
	2003/0208390	A1	Posner	11-6-2003	
	2003/0208434	A1	Posner	11-6-2003	
	2003/0212610	A1	Duffy et al.	11-13-2003	
	2003/0033192	A1	Zyman et al.	02-13-2003	
	2004/0010463	A1	Hahn-Carlson et al.	01-15-2004	

OIPE 3617  
 JUL 16 2004  
 U.S. PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

**RECEIVED**  
 JUL 20 2004  
**GROUP 3600**

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Documents	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T <sup>6</sup>
		Office <sup>3</sup>	Number <sup>4</sup>	Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)				

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.) date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T <sup>6</sup>
	✓	Noori, Hamid; Production and Operations Management; Total Quality Responsiveness; McGraw-Hill; 1995; pages 422-519	
	✓	Noori, Hamid; Production and Operations Management; Total Quality Responsiveness; McGraw-Hill; 1995; pages 592-601	
	✓	PR Newswire: Andersen Consulting Announce Strategic Alliance, Looksmart, September 6, 2000	
	✓	Stephanie Stahl, "A Whopping Inventory Task – Burger King's purchasing agency lures suppliers online to streamline its huge distribution system", INFORMATIONWEEK, 1994	

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
--------------------	-----------------

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup> Unique citation designation number. <sup>2</sup> See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document.

<sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449B/PTO		<b>Complete if Known</b>	
<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>  Date Submitted: July 16, 2004  <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i>		Application Number	09/816,331
		Filing Date	March 23, 2001
		First Named Inventor	George H. HOFFMAN et al.
		Group Art Unit	3627
		Examiner Name	Florian M. Zeender
Sheet	3	of	3
		Attorney Docket Number	062834-0136

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.) date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T <sup>6</sup>
		John Rendleman, "Burger King Orders AT&T Mail Service", CommunicationsWeek, 1994.	
		Microsoft Computer Dictionary, 4 <sup>th</sup> Edition, Microsoft Press, 1999, pages 167, 242, 334, 421, 443, 444 and 462	
		Microsoft Press Computer Dictionary; 3 <sup>rd</sup> Edition; 1997; Microsoft Press; pages 355 and 463	
		Merriam Webster's Collegiate Dictionary; 10 <sup>th</sup> Edition; 1996; page 139.	

**RECEIVED**  
JUL 20 2004  
**GROUP 3000**

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
-----------------------	--	--------------------	--

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup> Unique citation designation number. <sup>2</sup>See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. <sup>3</sup>Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup>For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document.

<sup>5</sup>Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup>Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.